AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Attorney Docket No.: Q86396

Application No.: 10/537,698

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

(currently amended): A natural rubber latex in which glucans contained in the

latex are decomposed, wherein enzyme treatment with an α-amylase α-glucan decomposing

enzyme and/or a cellulase β-glucan decomposing enzyme is carried out for the decomposition of

the glucans, and without a protease enzyme.

(canceled).

(canceled).

4. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein

an addition amount of the α-amylase α-gluean decomposing enzyme-falls in a range of 0.005 to

0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

(canceled).

6. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein

an addition amount of the  $\beta$ -glucan decomposing enzymecellulase falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5

mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

2

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Attorney Docket No.: Q86396

Application No.: 10/537,698

7. (previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim-1, wherein

treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.

(previously presented): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein

the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.

9. (currently amended): A natural rubber obtained from a natural rubber latex in

which glucans contained in the latex are decomposed, wherein enzyme treatment with an

 $\underline{\alpha\text{-amylase}\alpha\text{-glucan decomposing enzyme}} \text{ and/or a } \underline{\text{cellulase}\beta\text{-glucan decomposing enzyme}} \text{-is}$ 

carried out for the decomposition of the glucans, and without a protease enzyme.

10. (original): A rubber composition using the natural rubber as described in claim 9.

11. (original): A tire characterized by using the rubber composition as described in

claim 10.

12. (currently amended): A production process for a natural rubber, wherein it is

produced by subjecting a natural rubber latex to enzyme treatment with an α-amylaseα-glucan

decomposing enzyme and/or a β-glucan decomposing enzymecellulase to decompose glucans

contained therein, and without a protease enzyme.

3

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Attorney Docket No.: Q86396

Application No.: 10/537,698

13. (original): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 12,

wherein the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.

14. (previously presented): The production process for a natural rubber as described

in claim 12, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme

treatment.

15.-16. (canceled).

17-19. (canceled).

20. (previously presented): The production process for a natural rubber as described

in claim 13, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme

treatment.

4